

Greetings

My name is:

I have been asked by the Sisters at the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe to read the following statement:

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George Washington stated that agriculture is of primary importance to our individual and national welfare.

And so it is today.

Today, agri-business, through confined animal feeding operations are using political power and money to disregard the health of our natural environment; put family farmers at risk and extract wealth from rural communities.

Pope John Paul II stated **"At the root of the destruction of the natural environment lies an anthropological error, which unfortunately is widespread in our day. Too little effort is made to safeguard the moral conditions for an authentic 'moral ecology'. There are powerful cultural, economic and political currents which encourage the idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency... In this way a kind of 'conspiracy against life is unleashed'."**

The Leadership Council of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe view all life as sacred and interconnected.

The IHM Sisters ask the agriculture committee, you who hold our state's welfare in your hands, to oppose the bills to deregulate animal factory farms.

Thank you for your service,  
Sharon McNeil  
Ecology Director  
IHM Sisters